

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1 and 8 are amended. Claims 16 and 17 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter therein. The subject matter of claims 16 and 17 is incorporated into claim 1 and 8, respectively.

The courtesies extended to Applicants representative by Examiner Stephens at the interview held June 2, 2005, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview. Examiner Stephens is thanked for agreeing that the amendments overcome the rejection of the claims.

In section 4 on pages 2-4, the Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,748,214 to Usui et al. (hereinafter "Usui"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, "a plurality of peripheral recesses arranged along a whole periphery of the plurality of cavity recesses." Claim 1 further recites, "wherein the plurality of peripheral recesses are arranged along a whole periphery of the plurality of cavity recesses to surround the plurality of cavity recesses." Claim 8 contains similar recitations. In Usui, on the contrary, one dummy pressure producing chamber 71 is located merely at two ends of a reservoir chamber 55 such that a total of two pressure reducing chambers 71 sandwich a plurality of pressure producing chambers 51 that are arranged in line. See FIG. 13; column 10, lines 60-66; and column 11, lines 17-19. Thus, as agreed during the June 2 interview, claims 1 and 8 and Usui clearly differ in how the peripheral recesses are arranged.

Claim 1 also recites that the peripheral recess has no communication with the nozzle and the common ink chamber. In Usui, on the contrary, the dummy pressure producing chamber 71 communicates with a nozzle 79 and a reservoir chamber 55 (acting as a common

ink chamber). This communication is clearly shown in FIG. 12(B). Thus, claim 1 and Usui are further distinctly different in this regard.

Claims 2-6 and 9-14 are allowable based at least on their dependence from claims 1 and 8, respectively, for at least the reasons stated above in connection with claims 1 and 8.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-14 as being anticipated by Usui be withdrawn.

In section 5 on page 4, the Office Action indicates that claims 7 and 15 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Mark R. Woodall
Registration No. 43,286

JAO:MRW/tls

Date: June 15, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--